

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 00064 022353Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 021850Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4960

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0064

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, IT

SUBJ: USIS REDUCTIONS

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

1. FOLLOWING UP OUR CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON, I AM POUCHING YOU TODAY ADDITIONAL DATA REGARDING MY CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF REDUCTIONS CURRENTLY BEING CONTEMPLATED FOR USIS IN ITALY.

2. EVALUATION CAN BE MORE FULLY DOCUMENTED ABOUT FIRST OF FEBRUARY, AFTER USIS OFFICERS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR INTERVIEWS OF LOCAL STAFF MEMBERS BEING CONSIDERED FOR REDUCTION. I WILL PROVIDE TO YOU AN UPDATE EVALUATION THEN. MEANTIME, LETTER GOING OUT TO YOU TODAY EXPLAINS THESE AREAS OF CONCERN:

A) WE RECOGNIZE NEED FOR CUTS, BUT LEVEL INDICATED (REDUCE BY \$400,000, INCLUDING 36 OF 101 LOCAL POSITIONS) WOULD BE DAMAGING; I WOULD HOPE IT COULD BE HELD TO ABOUT HALF THAT.

B) I HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE WIDSOM OF SACRIFICING TOO MANY ABLE LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN ORDER TO FINANCE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVERAL ADDITIONAL (AND MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE) AMERICAN BRANCH PAOS. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE EXPERIENCE AND ITALIAN SKILL OF THESE BPAO CANDIDATES.

C) IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT PRESENCE OF U.S. FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS HAS IMPORTANT POLITICAL SYMBOLISM, AND IN THIS CONTEXT URGE THAT USIS LIBRARY/CULTURAL CENTER  
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IN MILAN NOT BE CLOSED.

D) IN SUM, GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT  
PLACE ON THIS MISSION'S OBJECTIVES IN NEXT FEW MONTHS, WHAT  
I AM SEEKING IS EASING OF IMMEDIATE REDUCTIONS, MANY OF  
WHICH CAN BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER CRUCIAL PERIOD ENDING  
SPRING 1977. IF NECESSARY, COULD NOT USIA RESOURCES FROM LOWER-  
PRIORITY AREAS BE SHIFTED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY?VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Subject:** USIS REDUCTIONS EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN  
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